

Need Congress OK for Housing In Braidwood

BY ROBERT W. RICHARDS

Washington, Jan. 2—(Copley Press Leased Wire)—Congressional authority and appropriations will be necessary before the government could act on an invitation from Braidwood to make it a site for housing thousands of new workers expected to be hired at the Joliet arsenal.

This was disclosed today by Public Housing Commissioner John Taylor Egan in replying to a letter of inquiry directed to him earlier this month by Rep. Noah M. Mason (R) of Oglesby.

Egan did not close the door to the possibility that the new congress will enact enabling legislation which would permit his agency to construct additional defense housing. As of now, however, the PHA has no authority to build it, Egan explained.

IN THE EVENT congress does act to provide places to live for defense workers in critical areas, he wrote Rep. Mason, selection of sites in Illinois will be handled by PHA's Chicago field office. This is located at 201 North Wells street and is under the direction of William E. Bergeron.

The congressman had forwarded to Commissioner Egan a letter from Paul E. Thurlow, president of the Braidwood Chamber of Commerce in which the desirability of that community for the construction of defense housing for Joliet arsenal workers was detailed.

The arsenal, it was earlier disclosed, has become the ordnance ammunition center for the United States army. As such it will supervise and control an expansion of ammunition supplies for the army's rearmament program.

Thus far no estimates are available here of how many new employees will be added to the arsenal, which got its new designation as a part of the decentralization of key military functions away from Washington.

BRAIDWOOD'S Chamber of Commerce offered sites for 2,500 housing units within the city limits and vacant areas nearly covering some 40 acres in all in which homes or apartments for defense workers could be erected.

Mr. Thurlow's letter, Commissioner Egan advised Rep. Mason, was forwarded to the Chicago field office of PHA for consideration of Mr. Bergeron should congress give the agency a green light with legislation and appropriations.

Meanwhile Rep. Mason has received a letter from Coal City's chamber urging that it also be considered for any defense residential building for Joliet arsenal workers.